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House staff initially believed the county preemption on livestock extended to dogs shepherding or herding livestock under existing law, but that overreach in Pima County necessitated further clarification. In representing the Pima County Attorney's Office, Kathleen Mayer likewise confirms the distinction between domestic animals and livestock. At 5:50 min into the hearing, Ms. Mayer explains that "there already is an exemption for animals who are being used in farming and ranching, rodeo pursuits, those kinds of things." Clearly, the exemption is unambiguous and has been acknowledged by county governments for years.

The Legislature has intended for animal cruelty of livestock to exist within Title 3 and remain enforceable by the Department of Agriculture. This statutory framework works in the best interest of both livestock, ranchers and animal agriculture producers. I encourage your office to preserve this policy framework that has served Arizona well for decades.

Sincerely,

Representative Tim Dunn

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